

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

—1 John 3:17-18

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On This Wonderful Summer Day...

It's a pleasure to share with you on this wonderful summer day all that God is doing through The Shalom Foundation. We just returned from Guatemala a few weeks ago and we are already preparing for another construction trip July 22-29.

Needless to say, much has been accomplished this year and we are excited about the months to come.



In this month's newsletter, you can read about our most recent trip to Guatemala, Shalom Foundation's recent

coverage in Vanderbilt's Children's Hospital's newsmagazine ...*On Their Way*, the latest in Guatemalan health statistics and an update

on Shalom's most pressing needs.

As you enjoy the summer months with friends and family, please remember to keep the Shalom children and people of Guatemala in your prayers. Pray also for the team that will be leaving in several weeks. May God continue to work through our hands and hearts as we demonstrate His Love and reflect His Peace.

In His Service,
Jacqueline Swartz,
Executive Director

Team Members Return From Building Homes In Guatemala

With luggage in hand and tools in tow, a team of 30 individuals set out together to build homes in the Paraiso and Santa Faz neighborhoods in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The team left on May 26 expecting to build 7 houses for fami-

lies living in inadequate shelter and general extreme poverty, however, what they encountered was much more.

"As we embarked on our journey of homebuilding for the week, I was focused on getting the

homes that we came to build constructed and ready for use," reflects team member Tami Harris, "But God quickly taught me the first day that the families and our interaction with them would be a key part of our trip also. We were

Team Members (cont.)

there to build up the community through the construction of homes but also to lift up the people we met in the process."

Team members, ranging in age from 15 to 66, started the week by participating in worship at Shalom Church, located in the heart of one of the poorest communities in the city. The team was greeted with boundless love and incredible gratefulness as Tami remembers, "As we prayed for them, they had been praying for us all along also!"

The team of 30, representing 12 different churches and five denominations, worked during the

day to build homes for the Guatemalan families. In the late afternoons, team members were involved in community outreach and evangelism where several decisions for Christ were made. The team concluded their trip on June 3, but the mission continues as the team seeks out more sponsors for the children they met during their stay. To date, members from this team have found sponsors for 10 children from the Critical Needs list, and sponsorships are still expected to come in.

Along with Tami and fellow team members, Tony Harris sees the deeper success of the trip. "I re-

member the smiles, more and more hugs and thank yous, and I believe we made a difference in the families and the communities that saw us work."

If you are interested in learning more about future trips to Guatemala, please contact our office at 615.595.5811.

Healing Hands: Partnership Gives Hope to Poverty-Stricken Guatemala

*By Jessica Howard Ennis
Reprinted with permission*

Guatemala is a country in Central America that is slightly smaller than the size of Missouri with the majority of its 14.2 million people living below the poverty line. It is a country full of children -- more than half the population is under the age of 18 and malnutrition and lack of quality health care makes growing up healthy in this country a daunting task.

Children born here have the odds stacked against them. Life expectancy at birth is the lowest in all of Central America, and infant mortality rate is the highest. Nearly half of the country's children under the age of 5 have stunted growth, one of the worst performances for growth attainment in the world.



The plight of Guatemala's children has garnered the attention of worldwide medical and humanitarian communities. The Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital has chosen Guatemala City as the formal site for medical aid for children, and recently completed the first official surgical trip.

A team of 14 surgeons, doctors, nurses and staff members from Children's Hospital screened patients and performed 35 pediatric urologic surgeries on children at San Sebastian Hospital in Guatemala City Feb. 5-11.

Children's Hospital partnered with The Shalom Foundation, a Middle Tennessee-based non-profit humanitarian aid organization, and the Guatemalan Pediatric Foundation, a non-profit group based in Guatemala that provides health services and helps coordinate international medical missions and trips.

"The medical component of our work at

Shalom is really going to be the most important thing we end up doing in the next five to 10 years," said Steve Moore, president of The Shalom Foundation. "I have a great respect for the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital team - the dedication of the nurses and doctors and their commitment to care is amazing. The international impact of this partnership will literally affect thousands of lives and we're very excited about that."

Click here to read full article:

<http://www.vanderbiltchildrens.com/interior.php?mid=2895>

The Medical component of our work at Shalom is really going to be the most important thing we end up doing in the next five to 10 years..."

-Steve Moore

Health Statistics: A Snapshot of Guatemala

- Guatemala's population is approximately 14.2 million people, with 4-5 million living in Guatemala City. **Fifty percent** of the country's population is **under the age of 18**.
- A significant share, 59%, of Guatemalan residents lack access to any healthcare services.
- In terms of diseases, major causes of death in Guatemala still include treatable and communicable diseases such as diarrhea, pneumonia, malnutrition and tuberculosis.
- Guatemala has among the

worst performances in the world in terms of child growth attainment, with an overall stunting rate of 44% of all children under 5. Only Bangladesh and Yemen have higher stunting rates.

- Over four-fifths of the women in the poorest quintile give birth at home, where they lack sanitary conditions for safe delivery.

- **Population below poverty line: 75%**

Population living in extreme poverty: 16%



Can You Help Us Meet These Needs?

The Foundation is in need of financial support for the **Food for Thought** program for the 2007 school year. Half of the students who attend Shalom School are **malnourished**. We know that children cannot learn when their bodies are hungry. This program provides well-balanced meals at lunchtime to students suffering from lack of nutrition. Currently the program is feeding 346 children, and costs more than \$25,000 per year.

Please consider sponsoring a day, a week, or a month of the Food for

Thought program. You can help feed more than **300 children for a day for only \$125**; **\$625 will feed more than 300 children for a week**; and **\$2,500 will feed them for a month**.

Consider making this a family, Sunday school class, church or company project. Bring you and your friends together in a common purpose and experience the joy of sharing in service with the ones you love.

If you can help, please contact Jacqueline Swartz at 615-595-5811 or via

email at jswartz@theshalomfoundation.org.

Thank You!



Additional Needs

- Shalom School is in need of a digital camera (4 megapixel or something similar is hoped for). This camera will be used to take pictures of children in need of sponsorships and to upload pictures to the website. The camera will also be used to take photos for new sponsorship packets that are

created each month as well as photos of mission teams and the families we serve.

- The Foundation is in need of 30-50 folding or stacking chairs for use at the Shalom Foundation office in Franklin. The chairs are needed to provide seating for mis-

sion team meetings.

Please contact Jacqueline Swartz at 615-595-5811 or jswartz@theshalomfoundation.org if you are able to assist in any way.

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About Us

The Shalom Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to providing financial support for underprivileged children and their families in the United States, Central and South America.

We are dedicated to providing basic educational opportunities, home construction and repair for families at risk, essential food and clothing needs and medical support and assistance for critical as well as basic healthcare.

The Shalom Foundation seeks funding through personal donations, corporate contributions and special event fundraisers. Contributions to The Shalom Foundation are 100% tax deductible.



www.theshalomfoundation.org



Mission and Vision

The Shalom Foundation is completely dedicated to providing financial and physical support for poverty-stricken children and their families. We seek to provide medical care to meet basic healthcare needs, educational assistance, and home repair for families living in unsafe dwellings or homes that do not provide them with basic protection.

We also seek to provide referrals to other government and nonprofit programs that can assist crisis afflicted children and families in developing nations with a focus on Central America, as well as the United States.